



*Maine Historical Records
Advisory Board*

2016-17
HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS
GRANT PROGRAM
BASIC GRANTS

GENERAL ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS
BICENTENNIAL RELATED COLLECTIONS
CIVIL WAR COLLECTIONS

Welcome to the Historical Records Collections Grant Program for the preservation of archival collections. Any subject area is eligible, but Bicentennial and Civil War collections are especially encouraged.

This is a collaborative effort of the Maine State Archives and the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board. Funding for the grant program comes from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

This packet contains information and a simple application form for applicants requesting up to \$1,000. There is a separate application for larger projects.

New to grants? Wondering if a project you are thinking about might be eligible? Confused by any part of the application? Please contact:

Maine State Archives
287-5790

We look forward to working with you!

Dave Cheever
Maine State Archivist

Guide to the Historical Records Collections Grant Program: Basic Projects

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Historical Records Collections Grant Program: Basic Projects

The primary purpose of this program is to preserve Maine's significant historical records (archives) and make them available to the public.

Projects dealing with *Bicentennial* collections and *Civil War* collections are especially encouraged because Maine has a rich heritage. Collecting, cataloging, and digitizing collections of Maine, especially in the 200 years of statehood, will help ensure that the records of our heritage do not disappear. There remains heightened interest in Civil War records because of the recent sesquicentennial commemoration, which provided opportunities to highlight those collections.

It is important that they be properly housed, organized, and made known to researchers to use them without harming the collections.

Guiding concepts:

In general, the Board favors:

- Basic preservation steps, rather than item-level conservation work.
- Describing archival collection should be a logical process: A basic inventory of the entire collection, followed by a basic level of organization (description at the collection or series level; housed appropriately) before doing folder or item-level description. This program does not normally fund item-level description, except for photographs, which may be described individually at a basic level.
- Preservation of original information over preservation of the object.
- Cost effective approaches to the preservation of information.
- Digitization can be an effective method for improving access to a collection, but for most media, it is not a preservation method. Digitization projects should also ensure that the originals are archivally housed.

I. APPLICATION INFORMATION

A. Who is eligible?

Local governments that comply with the *Rules for Disposition of Local Government Records*¹;

Non-profit organizations that are:

- collecting organizations (historical societies, libraries, museums) that have a mission statement and a collections policy [include with application], or
- organizations preserving institutional records (e.g., a grange) that have a mission statement [include with application]; and,

State agencies whose responsibilities include caring for a historic collection.

In addition

- A designated staff person or volunteer who cares for the collection is required,
- At least one person engaged in the project must have had relevant archival training (workshops or other formal education,)
- Collections must be available to the public by the end of the project, either by scheduled hours or appointment.

B. How can I strengthen my application?

Preference is given to projects that:

- use cost-effective approaches to preserving original information and making it available to researchers,
- are part of a plan to place an entire collection under intellectual control as opposed to doing detailed work on a small portion of a collection.

Projects are also preferred that:

- deal with historically significant collections,
- address threats to collections from environmental conditions, anticipated overuse,
- demonstrate organizational ability to sustain a commitment to its collections and facilities maintenance,
- preserve collections relating to Maine's Bicentennial or the Civil War

¹ Available online at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/29/255/255c010.doc>.

C. Funding Amounts and Required Community/In-kind Match

Grant Amounts

Grant awards will be for amounts up to \$1000. There is a separate application for projects in the \$1000 to \$4000 range.

Restrictions

All purchases made with grant funds and all matching contributions are to be made during the grant period and be directly associated with the project. Grant funds may not be used to pay for existing supplies or previous work. Grant funds may not be used to pay existing staff salaries, but may be used to pay someone who usually volunteers, or who is working beyond regular hours.

Required Match

The applicant must supply a 1:1 in-kind or cash match. For every \$1 of grant money, the applicant supplies \$1 of in-kind or cash match. Ineligible items may demonstrate commitment to the project, but may not be included as match in the budget. Although not required, the Board would prefer to see some of the match as cash for organizations with at least one full-time paid staff person.

In-kind (non-cash) match may include:

- a portion of staff salaries devoted to the project,
- volunteer time (budget at the pay rate you would expect to have to pay someone,)
- supplies or services that are donated, or supplies that were previously purchased,
- overhead (electricity, basic phone service) up to 10% of the grant amount;
- donated housing or meals for a consultant or worker.

Cash match may include payment for:

- supplies, services, minor equipment;
- consultants, consultant expenses, or additional staff;
- additional hours from an existing employee.

Applicants are encouraged to involve their communities for in-kind support, such as the donated use of a copy machine or scanner, or office supplies.

D. Project Timing

Application Postmark Deadline:	Earliest Start Date:	Project must be completed by*:
October 1, 2016	November 15, 2016	May 31, 2018
February 1, 2017	March 15, 2017	May 31, 2018
May 1, 2017	June 15, 2017	May 31, 2018
August 1, 2017	September 15, 2017	May 31, 2018
October 1, 2017	November 15, 2017	May 31, 2018
February 1, 2018 (<i>tentative, depending on availability of funds</i>)	March 15, 2018	June 15, 2018

* Because of Federal deadlines, it is unlikely that additional time can be granted.

Organizations may submit only one application at a time. Applicants do not have to finish a project before submitting another application; projects may run concurrently. If the applicant does have an active project funded through this program, include a status report on that project with the application.

E. What materials are eligible?

Original historical records (usually unpublished) including:

- manuscripts (diaries, letters, whether hand- or type-written, or in electronic form)
- accounting records (bound ledgers, account books, computer spreadsheets)
- photographic prints and negatives (slides are not eligible)
- architectural/ engineering drawings and blueprints
- audio tape recordings, existing oral histories
- motion picture films and video tapes
- local government records scheduled to be retained permanently
- materials that may have been published but had limited distribution (such as postcards, stereo views, and maps)
- paper-based ephemera (documents with one time use: posters, invitations)
- scrapbooks containing original historical records.

F. What is ineligible?

- Major capital equipment or computers, cameras, software. However, minor capital equipment which furthers the preservation of collections, such as environmental monitors, archival-quality shelving, flat files, and map cases, is eligible.
- building, architectural or landscape restoration
- exhibitions or publishing projects, whether traditional or Web based
- complete restoration (unbinding, de-acidifying, and rebinding) of bound manuscripts²
- photographic slides
- museum objects or most published materials.

With the exception of photograph collections, item-level cataloging is not normally supported by this program. If you propose to catalog at the item level, you must justify that approach.

G. Examples of Projects

- purchase storage materials (acid-free folders and boxes, photo sleeves, etc.) and archival quality shelving to rehouse a collection
- hire an archivist to create a finding aid for a large collection
- hire an archivist to make recommendations for organizing and storing your collections
- make archival copies of a photograph collection
- microfilm unique important records, including town records [special worksheet required: call 287-5790 or go to Web site]
- digitizing to provide or improve access to a collection.

² Microfilming is the most cost-effective way to preserve the information contained in the record books and is covered by the grant program.

**HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM
BASIC PROJECT APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

Applicant Organization: _____

Contact person: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone number and hours available: _____

FAX: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Do you have a formally adopted Collections Policy? YES NO (*circle one*)

Date of Adoption _____ *Please submit first page*

Project Title _____

Briefly describe the project: _____

Budget

1. Grant money requested: _____

2. In-kind match: _____

3. Cash Match: _____

TOTAL cost of project: _____

(add 1-3)

Project Dates (See Section D "Project Timing" in the Guide.)

Beginning Date: _____

End Date: _____

Signature of Authorized Official (Executive Director, President of Board)

Name	Title	Date
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Have you included?

- ☐ Cover sheet
- ☐ Project narrative
- ☐ Budget (accompanied by Microfilming Worksheet for filming projects)
- ☐ Mission statement and First page of Collections policy or Eligibility Form for Local Government Records (#1 of Project Narrative)
- ☐ Resume(s) or description of experience (#4 of Project Narrative)
- ☐ Letter(s) of support from any essential collaborators

Sample applications and recommended approaches are available upon request or on the web site (<http://www.state.me.us/sos/arc/mhrab/grants.html>).

Postmark deadlines

October 1, 2016; February 1, 2017; May 1, 2017; August 1, 2017, October 1, 2017, February 1, 2018

Please send completed application to:

Historical Records Collections Grant Program

Maine State Archives, #84 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0084



HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM



BASIC PROJECTS: NARRATIVE

Please answer the following questions in a page or two. Normally, a single page will not be sufficient unless you are doing a very simple project. Certain items may be more applicable to some projects; response length may vary. You do not have to use this form, as long as you follow this format, and reply to each question. If you have any questions about the application, don't hesitate to contact Maine State Archives (287-5790).

1. Eligibility Enclosures

- a. Collecting Organizations (historical societies, museums): Mission Statement and the first page of the Collections Policy. Libraries should submit the portion of their Collections Policy that relates to their archival material.
- b. Local Governments: Eligibility Form for Local Government Records (available on Web site or by request)
- c. Organizations preserving institutional records: Mission Statement

2. Please describe the Collection involved in the project -- its size, format, dates, and content. (If you wish, you can fill out the Worksheet instead.)

3. What activities are planned for the project? (If you wish, you can fill out the Worksheet instead.)

4. Personnel: Who is in charge of the archival collection? Describe the archival training of those who will be involved in the project.

C. Worksheet for Project Narrative Questions #2 and #3

These items are central to our project review ability. You may enclose this worksheet as an answer to #2 and #3, include it in addition to writing out an answer; or just use this information to help you write an answer.

#2. Describe the collection involved in the project

- Collection size (specific numbers). Select a convenient measurement; avoid counting the same materials twice.

_____ linear feet _____ letter-size file drawers _____ boxes
_____ cubic feet _____ legal-size file drawers _____ other (specify)

- Which of the following materials are in the project collection? (*circle all that apply*)

manuscripts photographs motion picture films postcards
diaries blueprints video tapes stereo views
bound ledgers maps tape recordings town/county records
other (specify):

- Which materials predominate? _____

- Dates covered in the collection: Earliest year _____ Latest year _____

- Most (bulk) of the collection: Earliest year _____ Latest year _____

- Content

What subjects are covered? (*circle*)

African Americans	Genealogy	Politics, government, law
Agriculture	Labor	Revolutionary War
Arts and architecture	Local history	Civil War
Bicentennial	Maritime	Science/technology
Business/industry/ manufacturing		
Medicine and health care	Military	Social service/charitable org.
Environment/natural resources	Native Americans	Education
Transportation and communication	Religion	Women
Other (specify):		

- What subjects predominate?
- What is the collection's historical significance? Why is it important in Maine history?
- Threats (if any) to the collection:
- What is the relationship of the project collection to the entire archival collection?

#3. Describe the Project Work Plan

When will the project start? _____ When will it end? _____

What activities will take place and in what time period?

MONTH	ACTIVITY

How many people are on the project team? _____

How often will the team meet; for how long each time? _____

What will the rate of work be? _____

(Make sure the math works. If you estimate how many photographs will be re-housed each month, and multiply it by the number of project months, will you be able to complete the project?)

- Procedures. Include draft examples of relevant forms (data collection), if possible. How, exactly, will the work be done?
- How will collections be made available after the project is completed?
- What type of finding aid will you create?

HISTORICAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM PROJECT BUDGET FORM

Organization: _____

You do not have to use this sheet, as long as you follow this format. Please outline the funds required for your project. Be mindful of funding eligibility rules.

Project Costs: Total estimated budget.
Cash Match: Cash your organization will commit.
In-Kind Match: Services your organization will provide to meet matching requirement.
Funds Requested: Amount you are requesting from the grant program.

	TOTAL Project Costs	Less Cash Match	Less In-Kind Match	=	Grant Funds Requested
A. Project Staff (paid and volunteer) <i>*Required* Name; time x rate</i>				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
B. Travel -- Destination; distance x \$.44; other travel expenses (<i>specify</i>)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
C. Supplies and materials -- items, cost (remember to include shipping costs)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
D. Services (telephone, postage, printing)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
E. Microfilming (<i>Separate worksheet <u>must</u> be filled out for microfilming costs. Enter the total here.</i>)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
F. Other costs (specify)				=	
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	=	_____
TOTAL	A)			=	B)

Maximum Grant Amount (B) = 50% of Total Project costs (A)